CBS MEMORANDUM

FROM: Bill Leonard
TO: JIM PARKER cc: Messrs. Chandler, Drasnin, Guttman
DATE: February 29, 1980

In behalf of CBS News, I would like to thank all of your people, obviously including Ron Guttman, who worked on the MUCC-CBS "Guns of Autumn" case.

Reading the decision, it seems to me that the court properly came to conclusions which may be useful to us in the future and that it cleared, pending appeal at least, shadows that lay over one of the most powerful documentaries ever to come out of this shop.

Judge Dismisses Suit Against CBS Over Hunting Documentary

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP)—A federal judge dismissed a $300 million libel and slander suit against CBS on Tuesday, saying that a controversial 1975 hunting documentary film, "The Guns of Autumn," did not focus on individual members of a Michigan sportsmen's group.

In a 20-page opinion, U.S. District Judge Noel Fox granted a motion by CBS attorneys for summary judgment, dismissing the suit by the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, its executive director and several Michigan hunters.

The plaintiffs claimed the film placed more than a million Michigan hunters "in a bad light." But Fox said there were too many hunters to claim that the film "can be reasonably understood as referring to the plaintiffs."

Michigan Game Hunters Lose Appeal on 2 CBS Programs

12/1/81

CINCINNATI, Nov. 30 (UPI) — Michigan game hunters failed in a second attempt today to persuade a Federal court to award them $300 million from CBS News because of a pair of documentaries that they charged were antihunting and defamatory.

The United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit sided with the network, agreeing that a Federal judge in Detroit correctly granted summary judgment in favor of CBS News last year.

The suit was filed by Michigan United Conservation Clubs and several individual hunters, who contended that CBS News, through "diabolically clever splicing" in two 1975 documentaries, "ridiculed, embarrassed and humiliated" the state's hunters, who are estimated to number a million.

The hunters also said that CBS News "tricked" the organization's executive director, Thomas Washington, into cooperating for the documentaries, "The Guns of Autumn" and "Echoes of the Guns of Autumn."